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ABSTRACT

In March 1975, there were about 11.2 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States. This advance report presents data on a variety of social, economic, and democratic characteristics for these people. Subcategories of Spanish origin are: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, or other Spanish origin. Collected in the March 1975 Current Population Survey, statistics are given for such characteristics as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, major occupation, family income, and low income status. A more detailed report is forthcoming. (NQ)

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Population Characteristics

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PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

(Advance Report)

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PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

This report presents advance data, collected in the March 1975 Current Population Survey, on a variety of social, economic, and demographic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin. Specifically, such characteristics as age, sex, marital status, educational attainment, major occupation, family income, and low income status are presented for persons who identified themselves as being of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin.

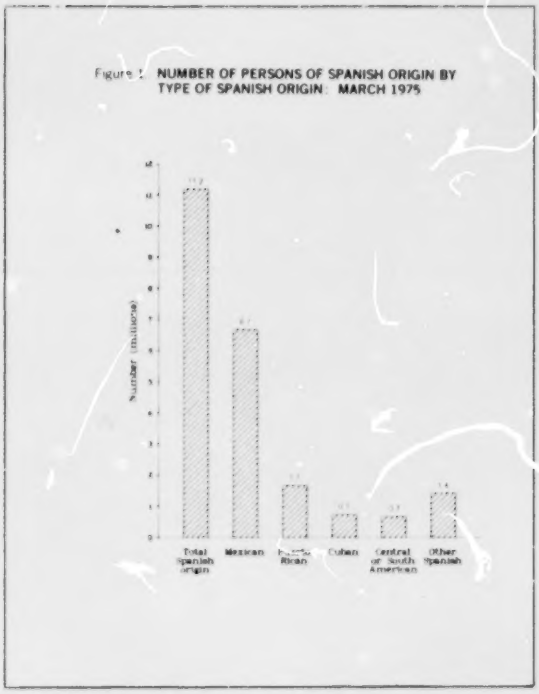

Figure 1. NUMBER OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN: MARCH 1975

In March 1975, there were about 11.2 million persons in the United States who reported they were of Spanish origin. Most of these persons, about 6.7 million, or 60 percent were of Mexican origin. Persons of Puerto Rican origin constituted about 1.7 million persons, or 15 percent of the total Spanish origin population. In addition, there were about 750 thousand persons reporting themselves of Cuban origin, 700 thousand reporting as Central or South American origin, and 1.4 million who classified themselves as of other Spanish origin (Table 1).

The population of Spanish origin in March 1975 was a younger population than the overall population of the United States: persons of Spanish origin had a lower median age, 20.7 years old, than the overall population, 28.6 years old. About 13 percent of all persons of Spanish origin were under 5 years of age, but the proportion of the total United States population under 5 years of age was 8 percent. Only about 4 percent of all persons of Spanish origin were 65 years old and over in March 1975 compared to 10 percent for the total population (Table 2).

Since women in general marry at younger ages than men, there was a larger proportion of single Spanish origin men than of single Spanish origin women; about 36 percent of Spanish origin men 14 years old and over in 1975 were single, but only about 27 percent of Spanish origin women were single (Table 3).

Younger persons of Spanish origin have achieved, in recent years, higher levels of educational attainment than their elders. For example, about 52 percent of Spanish origin persons 25 to 29 years old had completed 4 years of high school or more, but only 24 percent of Spanish persons 55 to 64 years old had done

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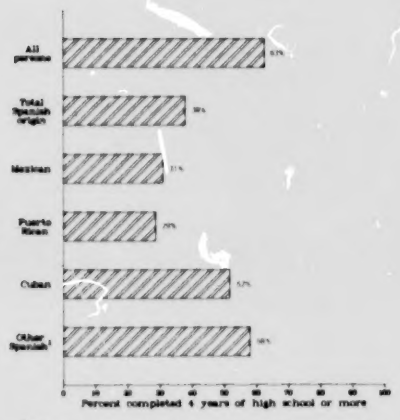
so. Only 8 percent of all persons of Spanish origin 25 to 29 years old had completed less than 5 years of school, but about 27 percent of Spanish origin persons 55 to 64 years old had completed less than 5 years of school (Table 4).

Figure 2. PERCENT OF ALL PERSONS AND PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER WITH 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE, BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN: MARCH 1975.



[1] Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

In March 1975, there were about 2.2 million employed men of Spanish origin 16 years old and over in the United States, but only 10 percent of these men were working in professional and technical fields as compared to 15 percent for all employed men 16 years old and over in the United States. Among employed men of Spanish origin, those of Mexican origin had the highest proportion, 8 percent, employed as farm workers (Table 5).

Family income in March 1975 was lower for Spanish origin families than for all families in the population. Specifically, median income of families with head of Spanish origin was $9,600, as compared with $12,800 for all families. Also, the proportion of Spanish origin families with incomes of under $4,000 was 15 percent, but the proportion of all families with incomes under $4,000 was 9 percent (Table 6).

In 1974 there was a marked difference between the individual incomes of men and women of Spanish origin. For example, about 16 percent of Spanish origin men with income had incomes of less than $2,000, but about 35 percent of Spanish origin women with income had incomes of less than $2,000. At the higher income range, about 27 percent of men of Spanish origin had incomes over $10,000, but only about 4 percent of women of Spanish origin had incomes at this level in March 1974 (Table 7).

There were about 2.6 million persons of Spanish origin in 1974 below the low-income level, or about one of every 4 persons of Spanish origin. There was, however, a noticeable difference in the proportions of low-income persons between the subcategories of Spanish origin. For example, although only 14 percent of persons of Cuban origin were below the low-income level, about 33 percent of Puerto Rican origin persons were below the low-income level in March 1974 (Table 8).

In this report, information on persons of Spanish origin was obtained from response to the following question:

What is your origin or descent?

01 German	10 Mexican-American
02 Italian	11 Chicano
03 Irish	12 Mexican
04 French	13 Mexicano
05 Polish	14 Puerto Rican
06 Russian	15 Cuban
07 English	16 Central or South American
08 Scottish	17 Other Spanish
09 Welsh	20 Negro
	21 Black

OR

30 Another group not listed

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Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. However, all persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, and Mexicano were combined into the one category: Mexican.

The estimated number of persons of Spanish origin presented in this report is comparable with the estimates of persons of Spanish origin previously published from the March 1974 CPS and the March 1973 CPS.

It is important to note that the estimates in this report are taken from a sample and therefore are subject to sampling error. The sampling error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the whole of the population is surveyed. However, all the statements of comparison in this report are statistically significant; this means that there are at least 19 chances out of 20 that a specified difference in the text of this report indicates a true difference in the population.

The numbers in this report are in thousands and were rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals; hence, the sum of the parts may not exactly equal the total shown. Also, because of rounding, the figures may differ slightly from table to table. Similarly, individual percentages were rounded and parts may not always add to 100 percent.

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Table 1. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

(Numbers in thousands)

Origin	Total	Percent distribution	
		Total population	Spanish origin population
All persons	209,572	100.0	(X)
Persons of Spanish origin	11,202	5.3	100.0
Mexican	6,690	3.2	59.7
Puerto Rican	1,671	0.8	14.9
Cuban	743	0.4	6.6
Central or South American	671	0.3	6.0
Other Spanish	1,428	0.7	12.7
Persons not of Spanish origin[1]	198,369	94.7	(X)

X Not applicable.
[1]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 2. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY AGE AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

Age	Total population	Spanish origin					
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central or South American	Other Spanish
Total....(thousands)..	209,572	11,202	6,690	1,671	743	671	1,428
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	7.7	12.5	13.7	13.0	4.6	10.8	11.6
5 to 9 years.....	8.3	12.2	12.5	13.0	6.5	10.3	13.3
10 to 17 years.....	15.7	19.6	19.5	20.7	16.7	17.8	21.3
18 to 20 years.....	5.7	6.2	6.6	6.2	4.0	5.4	5.2
21 to 24 years.....	6.9	7.0	7.8	5.8	5.4	6.6	5.9
25 to 34 years.....	14.4	14.0	13.8	15.9	9.3	18.5	12.5
35 to 44 years.....	10.8	11.6	10.7	12.8	15.6	15.5	10.4
45 to 54 years.....	11.3	8.6	8.1	7.0	18.6	9.1	7.9
55 to 64 years.....	9.3	4.7	3.8	4.1	10.7	3.8	6.4
65 years and over.....	10.1	3.6	3.3	1.5	8.6	2.3	5.5
18 years and over.....	68.3	55.7	54.3	53.3	72.2	61.1	53.8
21 years and over.....	62.6	49.5	47.7	47.1	68.2	55.7	48.6
Median age....(years)..	28.6	20.7	19.8	19.4	37.3	24.6	20.2

Table 3. MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

(Numbers in thousands)

Marital status	Total Spanish origin		Mexican		Puerto Rican		Other Spanish[1]	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 14 years and over	3,520	3,744	2,115	2,133	163	590	942	1,021
Single	1,277	1,016	766	596	187	159	323	261
Married	2,103	2,275	1,271	1,304	265	364	567	608
Widowed	42	256	27	135	1	30	12	91
Divorced	98	198	51	99	7	37	39	62
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	36.3	27.1	36.2	27.9	40.3	27.0	34.3	25.5
Married	59.7	60.8	60.1	61.1	57.3	61.7	60.2	59.5
Widowed	1.2	6.8	1.3	6.3	0.8	5.1	1.2	8.9
Divorced	2.8	5.3	2.4	4.6	1.6	6.2	4.2	6.1

[1]Includes Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 4. PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL AND PERCENT WHO COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE, FOR ALL PERSONS AND PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

Years of school completed and age	Total population	Spanish origin				
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL						
Total 25 years and over	3.3	18.5	21.6	17.1	7.3	7.6
25 to 29 years	1.0	7.7	9.8	8.2	(B)	1.0
30 to 34 years	1.0	9.3	11.8	10.1	(B)	4.3
35 to 44 years	1.9	15.9	22.1	13.7	3.1	5.8
45 to 54 years	2.5	22.5	30.2	29.1	6.6	6.6
55 to 64 years	3.5	26.5	35.7	(B)	12.3	12.6
65 years and over	11.0	45.7	63.8	(B)	(B)	21.0
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE						
Total 25 years and over	62.6	37.9	31.0	28.7	51.8	58.0
25 to 29 years	83.2	51.6	46.1	37.7	(B)	77.2
30 to 34 years	78.6	45.5	42.3	27.9	(B)	64.7
35 to 44 years	71.5	40.6	32.2	32.9	56.4	63.5
45 to 54 years	63.8	34.1	24.6	20.1	53.8	57.8
55 to 64 years	51.9	21.0	15.4	(B)	44.7	33.7
65 years and over	35.2	14.6	3.6	(B)	(B)	31.0

B Base less than 75,000.
[1]Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Table 5. EMPLOYED MEN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

Occupation	Total men, 16 years old and over	Men 16 years old and over of Spanish origin				
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]
Total employed..... thousands..	50,012	2,212	1,358	252	191	411
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers:						
Professional and technical.....	15.1	9.5	7.6	9.1	12.2	11.8
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	11.1	7.1	6.2	7.6	9.1	8.7
Sales workers.....	6.1	3.2	2.6	1.0	3.5	1.9
Clerical and kindred workers.....	6.8	6.1	5.0	8.0	12.5	7.0
Blue-collar workers:						
Craft and kindred workers.....	20.1	17.3	18.3	11.2	17.5	17.8
Operatives, including transport..	17.5	26.6	28.1	28.9	21.3	21.5
Laborers, except farm.....	7.0	12.1	11.2	9.1	2.2	11.2
Farm workers:						
Farmers and farm managers.....	2.9	0.2	-	-	-	0.9
Farm laborers and supervisors....	1.6	5.0	7.7	1.1	-	0.7
Service workers:						
Service workers, except private household workers.....	8.7	12.6	10.3	20.5	18.6	12.5
Private household workers.....	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
[1]Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Table 6. INCOME IN 1974 OF ALL FAMILIES AND OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

Family income	Total families	Families with head of Spanish origin			
		Total	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Other Spanish origin[1]
Total families.....(thousands)..	55,712	2,477	1,429	405	644
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $4,000.....	9.0	14.9	15.0	18.5	12.3
$4,000 to $6,999.....	13.0	19.4	19.2	26.4	15.2
$7,000 to $9,999.....	13.9	18.4	18.8	21.2	16.0
$10,000 to $14,999.....	24.4	24.3	26.6	18.0	23.0
$15,000 or more.....	39.7	23.1	20.4	15.8	33.5
Median income.....	$12,836	$9,559	$9,498	$7,629	$11,410

[1]Includes Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 7. INCOME IN 1974 OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

Income	Total Spanish origin		Mexican origin		Puerto Rican origin		Other Spanish origin[1]	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 14 years old and over.....(thousands)...	3,520	3,741	2,115	2,133	463	590	942	1,021
Persons with income (thousands).....	3,030	2,341	1,847	1,290	365	363	818	688
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $999 or loss.....	9.2	18.7	9.9	22.4	7.4	9.4	8.7	16.1
$1,000 to $1,999.....	7.1	16.5	7.1	17.4	7.1	12.9	6.8	16.6
$2,000 to $2,999.....	7.4	14.0	7.9	14.9	5.8	14.0	7.1	12.4
$3,000 to $3,999.....	7.6	11.9	8.0	12.1	5.8	15.2	7.6	9.9
$4,000 to $4,999.....	7.2	11.0	7.9	9.1	7.4	16.3	5.5	11.8
$5,000 to $6,999.....	15.2	15.1	16.0	13.9	15.9	18.5	13.1	15.7
$7,000 to $7,999.....	7.6	4.2	7.0	3.7	12.3	3.9	6.8	5.4
$8,000 to $9,999.....	12.0	4.9	11.7	4.3	14.0	5.5	11.6	5.7
$10,000 to $14,999.....	18.3	3.1	17.8	1.9	18.1	3.6	19.7	4.9
$15,000 to $24,999.....	7.0	0.6	6.0	0.3	1.7	0.8	10.3	1.2
$25,000 and over.....	1.4	0.1	0.8	-	1.1	-	2.7	0.3
Median income of persons with income.....	$6,507	$3,072	$6,154	$2,682	$7,055	$3,889	$7,158	$3,464

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
[1] Includes Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 8. LOW-INCOME STATUS IN 1974 OF ALL PERSONS AND PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1975

(Numbers in thousands)

Origin	Total population	Below the low-income level	
		Number	Percent
All persons[1].....	209,343	24,260	11.6
Persons of Spanish origin.....	11,202	2,601	23.2
Mexican.....	6,690	1,626	24.3
Puerto Rican.....	1,671	545	32.6
Cuban.....	743	106	14.3
Central or South American.....	671	95	14.2
Other Spanish.....	1,428	228	16.0
Persons not of Spanish origin[2].....	198,141	21,659	10.9

[1] Excludes unrelated individuals under 14 years of age.
[2] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.